

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING RAYMOND GRUBBS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas Raymond Grubbs is a professional truck driver for Yellow Transportation; and

Whereas, Raymond Grubbs has successfully driven one million miles without a preventable accident; and

Whereas, Raymond Grubbs should be commended for reaching this safety milestone; and

Whereas, Raymond Grubbs has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the safety of our nation's highways;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Raymond Grubbs for his outstanding accomplishment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINA TOOLEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Christina Tooley of Pueblo, Colorado for her hard work, courage and determination in the face of some of life's most challenging circumstances. Christina graduated from Pueblo Community College last spring and, as she celebrates this accomplishment, I would like to pay tribute to her incredible story before this body of Congress.

Throughout her life, Christina has had the courage to confront and overcome challenges that to many would seem impossible. Christina has been diagnosed with Bartlett-Bidell syndrome, a genetic disorder that can cause organs to improperly function and shut down. Due to the syndrome, Christina began having eyesight problems and, by her junior year of high school, she could barely see. Although the loss of her eyesight must have been devastating to Christina, she remained determined to maintain a full and productive lifestyle.

Soon after her diagnosis, Christina enrolled in the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind and began vigorous courses to learn Braille, later enrolling in Pueblo Community College. Throughout college, Christina and her mother would sit down and work diligently on her studies. Christina was able to do all of her computer assignments on her own, but needed her mother's assistance with reading notes and questions.

Initially, Christina confronted the challenge of getting around town by learning to use a cane to guide herself. Today, Christina has a guide dog named Natasha who has become a loyal friend and companion, helping to navi-

gate her way around the campus. Last May, Christina received her degree in Internet Business and Communications, and Natasha was right there by her side as she received her diploma.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I recognize Christina Tooley of Pueblo, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. Christina has shown an extraordinary determination to overcome unparalleled challenges and has made incredible strides through her efforts. Her courage and resilience are a testimony to her character and should serve as an inspiration to us all. I wish Christina all the best in her future, I am proud to represent such an extraordinary individual.

SITUATION IN BELARUS CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the latest outrage perpetrated by the regime of Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenka.

Last week, immediately after leaving the U.S. Embassy in Minsk, the Chairman of the opposition United Civic Party, Anatoly Lebedka, was picked up by plainclothes police officers and driven to KGB headquarters for interrogation. Anatoly had been at the Embassy to pick up the invitation for a conference on Belarus to be held this week here in Washington. In a clear effort at intimidation, Lukashenka's KGB thugs accused him of maintaining ties with supposed "intelligence agents" and other foreigners, purportedly for the purpose of undermining Belarus.

Mr. Speaker, this accusation is patently absurd. I know Anatoly Lebedka, having met with him in Washington and at several meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, most recently this past July in Berlin. It is clear to me that Mr. Lebedka is an honorable man committed to his country's development as an independent, democratic nation in which respect for human rights and the rule of law is the norm. There is no doubt in my mind that the real reason for the harassment of Anatoly—and this is not the first time—is his opposition to Lukashenka, to whom democracy and human rights are anathema.

Sadly, this is only the latest in a long list of human rights assaults by Lukashenka. Just within the last few months, we have seen the passage of a repressive law on religion, the bulldozing of a newly built church, the jailings of three leading independent journalists, the continued and persistent harassment of the political opposition, independent media and non-governmental organizations, and the effective expulsion of the OSCE presence there. These tactics are in keeping with the climate of fear which Lukashenka has sought to cre-

Moreover, we have seen no progress on the investigation of the missing and presumed dead political opponents—perhaps not surprisingly, as credible evidence links the Lukashenka regime with these murders, and growing evidence also indicates Belarus has been supplying weapons and military training to Iraq. Both in Berlin and in Washington, I have had the honor of meeting with the wives of the disappeared.

Mr. Speaker, the state of human rights and democracy in Belarus is abysmal, and the manifest culprit is Lukashenka and his minions. The long-suffering Belarusian people deserve to live in a country in which human rights are not flouted. Those in Belarus, like Anatoly Lebedka, who struggle for human rights and democracy deserve better. The Belarusian people deserve better.

WORLD POPULATION GROWTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a recent speech delivered by the President of the Population Institute, Mr. Werner Fornos, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Virginia on October 1, 2002. Mr. Fornos spoke to the rapidly growing economic and environmental pressures created by our burgeoning world population, especially in third world countries. These concerns represent a pressing issue for congressional debate and I offer these remarks to that end.

REMARKS BY WERNER FORNOS, PRESIDENT OF THE POPULATION INSTITUTE, AT THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON, VA. OCTOBER 1, 2002

World population stands today at more than 6.2 billion and increases by more than 75 million each year. An incredible 97 per cent of this growth occurs in the developing world, by definition the poorest countries of the world—those where for far too many daily living is a struggle for mere survival. These are the very countries least able to afford such massive influxes of people, countries where demographic pressures already place unbelievable burdens on schools, hospitals, transportation and virtually all facets of the economic and social infrastructure.

Yet our soaring human numbers are projected to exceed 9 billion by the year 2050. While the wealthiest countries on our planet are estimated to account for only 52 million of this increase, the developing world is expected to account for 2.7 billion.

But world population does not need to continue to grow at this dizzying pace.

First though, I must tell you that no matter what corrective course we may steer, the earth's population will reach 8 billion. The reason is our built-in demographic momentum: there are one billion people today between the ages of 15 and 24, the largest number of people entering their reproductive years at the same time than at any other time in the history of the world.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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